

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Study Session
March 16, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 7:14 p.m.

Present: Mayor Boudreau, Councilmembers Fiedler, Hudson, Hulst, Lindquist, Molenaar, Quam, and Ragan

Staff Present: Public Works Director Bell, Special Projects Donovan, Police Chief Dodd, Fire Chief Hari, Community and Economic Development Department Director Hyde, Assistant Public Works Director Love, Senior Planner Lowell, City Attorney Rogerson.

Citizens Present: 21

NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Report : Economic Development Committee, for details please see committee minutes

B. Community Comments

- Gerry Gardner, Mount Vernon resident, came forward to express his opposition to allowing the Lazarus House to establish a transitional house for Department of Corrections (DOC) vouchered tenants in the Monica Drive neighborhood.
- Tom Wenzl, Mount Vernon resident, also came forward to express his opposition to establishing a DOC transitional house in the Monica Drive neighborhood.
- Chris Diele, homeless person, came to express his opposition to being court ordered into faith based recovery systems.
- Rick Taylor, Lazarus House founder, apologized to the neighbors on Monica Drive for not contacting them before setting up this house. He stated that he will not accept DOC vouchered tenants in this house. He will enforce strict rules that will help to keep the neighborhood safe. His business was unaware of former problems with transitional housing in this neighborhood. Mayor Boudreau asked staff to organize a meeting with Mr. Taylor and other neighbors to try and reconcile this issue.
- Kit Rawson, Mount Vernon resident, came to inform Council that he would be holding a safe bicycling class to help increase rider safety. This will be held April 28, 2016 at Mount Vernon Hospital.
- Donna Klein, Mount Vernon resident, came forward to ask for assistance solving a noise problem coming from the pre-school that is located next door to her house.

- Jill Boer, Mount Vernon resident, came to express her concerns regarding the Lazarus house and whether this is a business and whether a business is allowed in a residential neighborhood.

C. Council Action Taken:

Councilmember Hulst moved to add an item to the agenda, regarding an amendment to an acquisition and settlement agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan: Ms. Lowell presented an update of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. This draft of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan inventories the City's existing transportation networks, evaluates what improvements will be needed and how these improvements will be paid for, as new homes and jobs are created in the City over the next 20 years. This element is required to establish goals and policies that will guide the development of transportation systems.

- The purpose of the Transportation Element is to ensure that the City's transportation infrastructure is managed to provide safe, efficient and cost effective transportation routes within and through the City.
- Transportation includes more than motorists; it also includes facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders.
- Projected growth, aging infrastructure, changes in certain demographics and reductions in transportation funding from Federal and State sources present key challenges that the City will face in the coming years.

E. First Amendment to a Property Rights and Settlement Agreement: Mr. Rogerson presented back ground information regarding a settlement agreement with Commercial Cold Storage (CCS) that was recently approved by Council. This agreement includes the requirement for the City to obtain and rent a dry storage area for a period of time when CCS would not have their onsite storage available to them due to the construction of the Downtown Flood Control system. The City has located such place and the potential lease for it has been reviewed by both parties' legal representatives. The lessor is Quantum Business Park, and they have requested that CCS sign as a co-tenant to the lease agreement which requires an amendment to the settlement agreement previously approved by the City and CCS.

Councilmember Hulst moved to approve the First Amendment to the Property Rights and Settlement Agreement with Commercial Cold Storage. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was convened into executive session at 8:35 p.m. and was estimated to last 10 minutes.

F. Executive Session: Enforcement Action and Potential Litigation.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Rebecca J. Wade, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor